

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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ABIDJAN PASS AMB GRAHAM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EAID, PDEV, UV

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT LAMIZANA DELIVERED TRADITIONAL STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS ON OCCASION GOUV'S FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE. SPEECH FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON ECONOMIC ISSUES. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED LENGTHY JUSTIFICATION FOR RECENT INCREASES IN CUSTOMS AND FISCAL TAXES, SUMMARY OF INDUSTRIALIZATION EFFORTS, GLOWING STATEMENT ON FIVE YEAR PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND EXHORTATION FOR EACH VOLTAIQUE TO ACT FOR COMMON,
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RATHER THAN PERSONAL, WELFARE. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT

CAST HIS REMARKS IN OPTIMISTIC TONES, CERTAIN PARTS OF HIS SPEECH MET WITH SKEPTICISM ON THE PART OF A NUMBER OF INFORMED VOLTANS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA DELIVERED HIS ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY DAY SPEECH ON AUGUST 4. HIS PRE-RECORDED, NATIONWIDE SPEECH WAS OPTIMISTIC IN NATURE AND DEALT PRIMARILY WITH ECONOMIC ISSUES. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO "OAU MEDIATORS" FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO RESTORE CLIMATE OF DETENTE BETWEEN MALIANS AND VOLTANS. HE MENTIONED NO COUNTRY BY NAME. HE ALSO PAID HOMAGE TO VOLTAN ARMY FOR COOLNESS, COMPOSURE AND DETERMINATION WHICH THEY SHOWED DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD.

3. SPEECH CONTAINED LENGTHY JUSTIFICATION FOR RECENT JULY FIRST INCREASES IN CUSTOMS AND FISCAL TAXES WHICH HAVE CAUSED CONCERN AMONG BUSINESS AND BANKING CIRCLES. PRESIDENT SAID MEASURES WERE NECESSARY TO RAISE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO COVER "NEW EXPENSES" (I.E. ARMS PROCUREMENT AND MOBILIZATION OF ARMY). BLAME ALSO LAID ON INTERNATIONAL INFLATION WHICH HAS FORCED VOLTANS TO PAY OUT MORE FOR IMPORTS THUS STRAINING NATIONAL BUDGET. CONTINUING ON THEME OF INFLATION, PRESIDENT SAID GOUV WAS TAKING STEPS TO DEAL WITH SPECULATORS AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN "ILLICIT PRICING". MEASURES TO INCLUDE MORE AGENTS IN FIELD TO MONITOR PRICES AND USE OF RURAL RADIO TO BROADCAST DAILY PRICES.

4. PRESIDENT DISCUSSED INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM, NOTING THAT NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES HAD RISEN FROM 10 TO 36 DURING LAST FIVE YEARS. NEW \$27 MILLION SOSUHV INTEGRATED SUGAR COMPLEX AND VOLTEX TEXTIMLE PLANT WERE CITED AS NOTABLE EFFORTS AT IMPORT SUBSTITUTION. PRESIDENT ADDED THAT SEVERAL NEW PROJECTS WERE ON TAP WHICH WOULD INCREASE INDUSTRY'S ROLE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

5. IN PERHAPS MOST CONTROVERSIAL PORTION OF HIS ADDRESS, LAMIZANA STATED THAT 93 PERCENT OF OBJECTIVES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE FIRST THREE YEARS (1972-74) OF SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. TOTAL INVESTMENT REALIZED WAS ON THE ORDER OF \$200 MILLION. DETAILS OF THIS, HE SAID, WOULD BE GIVEN AS SOON AS "TIME COMES TO PUBLISH RESULTS OF FIVE YEAR PLAN."

6. PRESIDENT WAS HOPEFUL ABOUT CURRENT RAINY SEASON BUT MENTIONED THAT GOVERNMENT HAD CARRIED OUT STEPS

TO INSURE THAT RELIEF STOCKS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE
IN ANY EMERGENCY SITUATION.

7. IN DISCUSSING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, PRESIDENT
SINGLED OUT SEVERAL FOREIGN-AID PROJECTS FOR PRAISE.
INCLUDED WERE SAHEL ORD, WORLD BANK'S BOUGOURIBA ORD
AND WEST VOLTA LIVESTOCK PROJECTS, FRG'S BLACK
VOLTA IRRIGATION SCHEME AND WHO/FAC ONCHOCERCIASIS/RIVER
VALLEY RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF
USAID'S \$4 MILLION EFFORT IN EASTERN ORD OR NATIONWIDE
SEED MULTIPLICATION PROGRAM.

8. COMMENT: SPEECH OBVIOUSLY BEARS STAMP OF MINFIN
GARANGO WITH PROBABLY DRAFTING ASSIST BY DIRECTOR OF
PLAN PIERRE TAHITA. ALTHOUGH LAMIZANA STROVE TO PROJECT
OPTIMISTIC TONE, IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHETHER HE
SUCCEEDED. INFORMED VOLTANS ARE PARTICULARLY SKEPTICAL
ABOUT HIS REMARKS ON LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENTS ACCOMPLISHED
DURING FIRST THREE YEARS OF SECOND PLAN QUINQUENNAL.
MANY FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT DROUGHT-STRICKEN
ECONOMY COULD HAVE COME ANYWHERE NEAR FIGURE OF 93
PERCENT. END COMMENT.
DUMAS

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